



This is a region of Thracian burial mounds, to be found in the valley of Kazanluk dating back to 4th-3rd century B.C. Apart from the famous Kazanluk tomb and the tombs at the villages of Krun, Muglzh, the Koprinka Dam and many others, the archaeological excavations in the region in 1992-1997 brought to light new sites under the mounds – the Zapryanova, Malkata [Small], Golyama [Big] Arsenalka, Ostrousha, Helvetsia, Shoushmanets, Sarafova, Sashova, Slavchova, the Mound of Gryphons, the Mound near the village of Gabarevo. The unearthed archaeological monuments are unique showing the development of Thracian culture (architecture) between the 5th and the 4th century B.C. In the summer of 2004, the region aroused great interest by the new sensational discoveries. A unique gold mask (second half of the 5th century B.C.) was unearthed in a mound in the Svetistata [female saint] locality (close to Shipka). It weighs 690 grammes, while a big gold ring of 20 grammes, was also found. In the Golyamata Kosmatka mound, the same team of archaeologists brought to light one of the oldest Thracian temples (first half of the 5th century B.C.), known in the world to date, and a bronze head of a man (second half of the 4th century B.C.) was unearthed, ritually buried in front of the temple. A big treasure was also found, including 74 items, 20 of them gold, among which a unique gold wreath, weighing more than 300 grammes, applications for horse tackle, a wine drinking vessel, a sword in a scabbard, and some others.